GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1395
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2010
SHORTAGE OF COAL AND GAS
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand and supply of coal and gas in various power plants in the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether a number of power plants in the country are facing shortage of coal and gas;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State/UT wise;

(d) whether several coal-based power plants have been closed down due to shortage of coal and some of these plants are generating power below their installed capacity; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the concrete measures taken by the Government to meet the shortage of coal and gas in these plants?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI)

(a): Total demand and supply (receipt) of coal and gas during the last three years and the current year are given at Annex-I and II respectively.

(b) & (c): Yes, Madam, a few power stations are facing shortage of coal and gas and have reported generation loss due to shortage of coal and gas. State-wise/ Station-wise details of generation loss reported by the Power Utilities/Stations due to shortage of coal and gas are enclosed at Annex-III and IV respectively.

(d): Even though, power plants have not reported being closed down due to shortage of coal, some of the power stations have reported generation loss aggregating 13,667 Million Unit during the period April 2009- January 2010 due to shortage of coal. State-wise/ power station-wise details of the same are given in Annex-III.

(e): The measures taken/being taken by Government to meet the shortage of coal and gas include the following:

The coal supply position to thermal power stations is rigorously monitored by Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Power as well a s an Inter-Ministerial Sub-Group comprising representatives from Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Power and Central Electricity Authority (CEA) with a view to optimize coal supply to the plants having stock less than 7 days.

The coal production and supply to thermal power stations in the country is reviewed by the Infrastructure Constraints Review Committee, headed by Secretary (Co-ordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat to address the constraints in coal production, transportation, unloading, etc.

Fuel Infrastructure Committee, under the Chairmanship of Member (Power), Planning Commission, periodically reviews the status of supply of fuel to power stations in the country.

In order to bridge the gap between the requirement of coal and its availability from the domestic sources during the current financial year (2009-10), the Power Utilities have been advised to import 28.7 Million Tonne coal and approximately 18.965 Million Tonne coal has been imported by April, 2009 to January, 2010.

Ministry of Coal is being insisted upon to enhance the production of coal in the country.

Towards ensuring long term fuel security, Ministry of Coal has been requested to allocate new coal blocks to power utilities for captive mining.

Out of total allocation of 91.61 mmscmd from KG D-6, 43.165 mmscmd has been allocated to power sector by the EGoM − 31.165 mmscmd on firm basis and 12.00 mmscmd on fall back basis has been made for captive power plants from KG D-6.

While allocation of RIL gas from KG basin (D-6), the power sector has been given priority.

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MOP&NG) is taking necessary steps to augment production of natural gas from the gas

fields/wells.

MOP&NG is taking necessary steps to increase availability of gas from domestic sources by awarding gas blocks for Exploration & Production (E&P) under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

MOP&NG is encouraging import of gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) through international pipelines projects.

In order to explore and produce new sources of natural gas from coal bearing areas, government has formulated a Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy providing attractive fiscal and contractual framework for exploration and production of CBM in the country.

Government is encouraging Under Ground Coal Gasification (UGCG) and coal liquification and investment by private entrepreneurs in development of these frontier technologies.